



## Susceptibility of the aging lung to environmental injury

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### Abstract:

With an ever-increasing number of elderly individuals in the world, a better understanding of the issues associated with aging and the environment is needed. The respiratory system is one of the primary interfaces between the body and the external environment. An expanding number of studies suggest that the aging pulmonary system (>65 years) is at increased risk for adverse health effects from environmental insult, such as by air pollutants, infection, and climate change. However, the mechanism(s) for increased susceptibility in this subpopulation are not well understood. In this review, we provide a limited but comprehensive overview of how the lung ages, examples of environmental exposures associated with injury to the aging lung, and potential mechanisms underlying the increased vulnerability of the aging lung to injury from environmental factors.

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### Resource Description

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Ozone, Particulate Matter

**Temperature:** Extreme Heat

#### Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

#### Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

#### Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Respiratory Effect

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**Infectious Disease:** Airborne Disease

**Airborne Disease:** Influenza

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma, Bronchitis/Pneumonia, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Population of Concern:** ☒

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Elderly

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified